

May 2004

IF holds ribbon cutting for new research facility

by Francis L. Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — Commander Gen. Gregory S. Martin, Air Force Materiel Command, joined a host of local officials and dignitaries Apr. 23, in ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the new Air Force Research Laboratory's Information Directorate Research Facility.

The 105,000-square-foot facility is the centerpiece of a \$24.8 million program that also included modification to an existing adjacent building and site enhancements. New York State was given Congressional approval to provide \$12 million toward construction costs. The Air Force funded the remaining \$12.8 million.

"The construction of these new facilities, like the Research Lab in Rome, spurs technological growth and helps enhance the morale of our workforce," said General Martin. "Thanks to the supports from the State of New York, the new Rome lab will provide a fertile environment for innovation for years to come."

"Today's ceremony signifies much more than just the opening of a new building," said New York Gov. George Pataki. "It symbolizes the culmination of a partnership between New York State and the Air Force, and it underscores our commitment to secure Rome's foothold in the sector of national defense."

"As a result of the events on Sept. 11, 2001, security and defense have become our nation's highest priorities," said Gov. Pataki. "It would be a great understatement to say that we appreciate the work that the people of the Rome Research Site provide to our troops, the intelligence community, and law enforcement officials in Iraq, Afghanistan, and even at home. We stand behind you in your efforts and are proud of the crucial defense technologies being created right here in Rome, New York."

"Information is the key to winning the war on terror," said Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y. "You are doing cutting-edge technology that will make all Americans safer."

The facility will house more than 300 government employees and contractors and will consolidate the directorate's technical divisions into a single complex, including the adjacent existing building. This consolidation will enhance collaboration among the directorate's scientists and engineers and provide the most current state-of-the-art research environment.

"This new state-of-the-art facility will enable us to conduct cutting-edge research for the Air Force and Department of Defense," said Raymond P. Urtz, director of the Information Directorate. "The new complex represents the latest innovation at the



Gen. Gregory S. Martin at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Information Directorate Research Facility, Apr. 23.

Rome Research Site campus and it will be a catalyst for future development within the Griffiss Business and Technology Park."

Atkins Benham Constructors of Oklahoma City, Okla., was awarded a \$19,698,968 contract in September 2001 for construction of the facility. The Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Philadelphia, Pa., was responsible for administering the construction.

The facility was selected for the Honor Award in the Concept Design Category in the 2004 AFMC Design Awards. The award is the highest presented by the command in a program intended to promote quality design. The program encourages award-winning efforts by recognizing individual designers and architect-engineering firms who, in their work, display a high level of creativity while producing cost-efficient, energy-conscious facilities compatible to their environment and meeting user needs and expectations. @